



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

New York and New Jersey Channels Raritan Bay /Wards Point Bend Reaches

Maintenance Dredging

FACT SHEET**SEPTEMBER 2004**

DESCRIPTION: Maintenance dredging at Seguine Point of the Raritan Bay/Wards Point Bend Reaches of New York and New Jersey Channels, with the placement of the dredged material at a State approved upland disposal facility in FY04/FY05.

AUTHORIZATION: The federal navigation project for the New York and New Jersey Channels was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1933 and subsequently modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935, 1950, 1965 and 1985. Within Raritan Bay /Wards Point Bend Reaches the project provides for a channel 37 ft. deep in rock and 35 ft. deep in soft material, 600 ft. wide through Lower New York Bay, Raritan Bay to the Arthur Kill. Beyond Wards Point Bend Reach the project extends up Arthur Kill and through Kill Van Kull to Upper New York Bay with suitable easing of the bends and junctions. Total length – about 31.0 miles; two anchorages 38 ft. deep to accommodate 5 vessels each, one in the vicinity of Sandy Hook and the other south of Perth Amboy.

STATUS: The project dredged material is not suitable for HARS placement and must be placed elsewhere. In FY04, funds are being used for Engineering and Design, including the preparation of plans and specifications and environmental coordination for the disposal of approximately 150,000 cys of dredged material. A condition survey was performed in Mar/Apr FY04. There is partial funding for the dredging of Seguine Point in FY04, with the remaining funding proposed in the FY05 budget. The grain size distribution of the material to be dredged is: 18% sand, 49% silt, 33% clay. Past condition surveys of the various portions of the RB/WPB Reaches were performed between December 02-March 03.

The NYNJ Channels were part of the high priority dredging under the Administration's Dredging Plan in 1997. The Raritan Bay Reach (RBR) extends from Mile 0 to Mile 11 and Wards Point Bend extends approximately from Mile 11 to Mile 12 in the portion of the NYNJ Channels located in Raritan Bay. Dredging last occurred in 2001 at Perth Amboy Anchorage where 903,270 cubic yards were dredged and placed at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) at a cost of \$4,270,042.00. The Raritan Bay/Wards Pt Bend Reach was dredged in 1997/1998 to the authorized depth of 35 ft. + 2 feet allowable over-depth MLW. Approximately 478,000 cubic yards of material were removed at a cost of \$1.795 million dollars and placed at the HARS in the Atlantic Ocean. Prior to that, dredging occurred in 1989 when 131,000 cy were dredged and ocean placed at the Mud Dump Site (now re-designated as the HARS). The dredged material in both Perth Amboy and Wards Point Bend was approximately 95% silt and clay. The project cycle is approximately 6 years.

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